

**Final
Environmental Assessment
To
Construct a One-quarter Mile Track with Stretching Pads
and
PAR Course
Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas**

**Prepared by:
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Sheppard AFB, TX**

May 2011

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**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR
CONSTRUCTION OF A ONE-QUARTER MILE TRACK
WITH STRETCHING PADS AND PAR COURSE AT
SHEPPARD AIR FORCE BASE, TEXAS**

Agency: Department of the Air Force, 82d Training Wing, Sheppard Air Force Base (SAFB), Texas.

Description of Proposed Action: The Proposed Action includes the construction of a one-quarter mile track with stretching pad and a par course/nature trail at SAFB, Texas. The current 82 TRW situation to provide adequate fitness space is in support of the fitness center programs and the requirements of the USAF physical fitness criteria to meet current and future mission needs. The Proposed Action is to provide continued and upgraded training and fitness in a cost effective and expeditious manner. Specific components of the Proposed Action include:

- Construction of a one-quarter mile track and parking area consisting of a 6 lane walking track in the area between Ave E and Ave F, north of 8th Ave,
- The track will consist of asphalt and concrete with a rubber surfacing made of polyurethane and recycled tires,
- Addition of stretching pads comprised of 2 concrete, rubberized workout pads located around the walking track,
- Install utility and electrical lines to provide dusk-to-dawn timed lighting, restroom facilities, Automatic External Defibrillator (AED), and an emergency phone for security and safety of the facility users,
- Construction of a par course/nature trail with exercise stations, park benches, and a parking area with timed dusk-to-dawn lighting for security,
- Current landscaping will be used to the maximum extent practical; however, additional landscaping shall include trees, rocks, and a variety of ground cover that meets the requirements in accordance with Department of Defense and Air Force Landscape Design criteria.

Description of Alternatives Analyzed: Air Force leadership began examining alternatives to address the inadequate physical fitness capabilities of military members through the Air Force Fitness Program. A number of alternatives were initially considered and all action alternatives other than the construction of the one-quarter mile track with stretching pad and par course were eliminated from consideration.

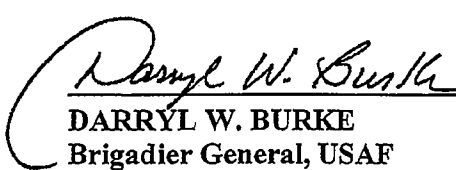
In addition to the proposed action, one other alternative (the No Action Alternative) was carried forward for analysis in the Environmental Assessment (EA). Under the No Action Alternative, the benefits of the proposed action would be entirely unavailable or severely compromised by operational limitations from an unfeasible location or different sized unit. The undesirable consequences would eliminate or compromise the mission and preclude effective benefits from the purpose and need for the proposed action.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS: Direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts regarding land use, air resources, hazardous materials and waste, utilities and infrastructure, geology and soils, water resources, biological resources, cultural resources, socioeconomics, environmental justice, and health and safety were analyzed for the proposed and alternative actions at SAFB.

Implementation of the proposed action would result in a temporary increase in air pollutant emissions from construction activities, equipment, and related vehicles. However, considering the temporary and transient nature of construction related emissions, as well as the mitigation actions to be utilized, it is not anticipated that emissions from construction of this project will have any significant impact on air quality in the area. Since the affected air quality control region is in attainment for all standards, a conformity determination is not required. Any plans, standards, or practices required by local, state, or federal law or USAF regulations would be observed in an effort to avoid or minimize impacts to the resources including best management practices commonly required in construction or renovation contracts for resource protection at SAFB. Therefore, the analysis in the Environmental Assessment concluded the following:

- There would be no significant impact from the proposed action to land use, air resources, hazardous materials and waste, utilities and infrastructure, geology and soils, water resources, biological resources, cultural resources, socioeconomics, environmental justice, and health and safety.
- The proposed action is not expected to contribute appreciably to cumulative environmental impacts when considered in the context of other projects that have recently been completed, are currently under construction, or are anticipated in the near future.

Finding of No Significant Impact: Based on information and analysis presented in the EA and review of public agency comments submitted, I conclude that implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative would not constitute as action that significantly affects the quality of the human environment due to the findings listed above and expanded upon in the EA. Accordingly, the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations, and 32 Code of Federal Regulations 989 were fulfilled, and an environmental impact statement is not required and will not be prepared.


DARRYL W. BURKE
Brigadier General, USAF
Commander, 82d Training Wing

24 May 2011

Date



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND

8 April 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR 82 CES/DS2/CEV

FROM: 82 TRW/JA

SUBJECT: Legal Review—EA and FONSI, Track and PAR Course/Nature Trail

1. I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) concerning the construction of a one-quarter mile track with stretching pads and PAR Course/Nature Trail at Sheppard AFB TX, and find them legally sufficient. This construction is required to meet current and future mission needs at Sheppard AFB.
2. The EA was conducted by DS2, the CE contractor at Sheppard AFB. The EA concluded that:
 - a. There would be no significant impact from the proposed action to land use, air resources, hazardous materials and waste, utilities and infrastructure, geology and soils, water resources, biological resources, cultural resources, socioeconomics, environmental justice, and health and safety.
 - b. The proposed action is not expected to contribute appreciably to cumulative environmental impacts when considered in the context of other projects that have recently been completed, are currently under construction, or are anticipated in the near future.
3. Based on the information and analysis presented in the EA and review of public agency comments submitted, I concur that this construction would not constitute an action that significantly affects the quality of the human environment. Pursuant to this conclusion, a Finding of No Significant Impact is appropriate and an environmental impact statement is not required.
4. If you have any questions about this matter, please contact me at 676-7183.

PATRICK W. MOUDY, GS-12, DAF
Chief, General Law

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Introduction

The 82d Training Wing (82 TRW) proposes to construct a One-quarter Mile Track with Stretching Pad and a PAR Course/Nature Trail at Sheppard Air Force Base (SAFB), Texas. This Environmental Assessment (EA) is an evaluation of the proposal to construct a One-quarter Mile Track with Stretching Pad and a PAR Course/Nature Trail. The addition of this Track and PAR Course/Nature Trail would allow the United States Air Force (USAF) to provide improved fitness and training to war ready airmen in preparation for the fitness requirements of the United States Air Force (USAF).

SAFB encompasses approximately 5,297 acres in north-central Texas. It is located six miles south of the Texas/Oklahoma border at an elevation of approximately 1,015 feet above mean sea level (amsl). It is adjacent to and north of the city of Wichita Falls in Wichita County, Texas. The western and southern portions of the base are located within the Wichita Falls city limits, and the remainder of the installation lies within unincorporated Wichita County located midway between Dallas, Texas, and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Aerial imagery and project location maps of SAFB are provided in Appendix B.

1.2 Purpose and Need

The USAF must maintain the highest level of quality education and training for its force structure. The Air Education and Training Command (AETC) is responsible for the training and education of USAF personnel. SAFB, an AETC installation, is the largest of four technical training wings within AETC and has the most diversified training mission. SAFB conducts technical and healthcare training for the USAF, United States Army, United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, and several allied nations.

The purpose and need of the proposed action is to provide adequate fitness space in support of the fitness center programs and the requirements of the USAF physical fitness criteria. Physical fitness advances within the USAF are increasingly demanding as more significant investments in advanced training and combat requirements become increasingly more stringent. The USAF seeks to address this problem in part by increasing the fitness capabilities on SAFB in order to support the fitness center programs in order to meet the requirements of Air Force Instruction (AFI) 36-2905. A One-quarter Mile Track with Stretching Pad and a PAR Course/Nature Trail will adequately address the deficient facilities at SAFB that are necessary to meet the requirements of AFI 36-2905, that require a multi-station training course (e.g. obstacle course, par courses, and circuit) and a 1.0 mile timed walk (1760 yards/1609 meters). The criteria established in AFI 36-2905, requiring a multi-station training course and a measured 1.0-mile, uninterrupted course (preferable a ¼ mile track) approved by the Wing Commander would be met through the design and construction of this project and would meet the need outlined in AFI 36-2905.

1.3 Scope of the Analysis

This Environmental Assessment (EA) identifies, describes, and evaluates the potential environmental impacts that may result from the construction of the One-quarter Mile Track with Stretching Pad and a PAR Course/Nature Trail, and from the No Action alternative. As appropriate, the affected environment and environmental consequences of the proposed action and alternatives are described in terms of site-

specific descriptions or a regional overview. Finally, the EA identifies measures to reduce impacts or best management practices to prevent or minimize environmental impacts, if required.

The resources that could be impacted are analyzed in the EA and include land use, noise, air resources, hazardous materials and waste, utilities and infrastructure, geology and soils, water resources, biological resources, cultural resources, socioeconomic (including environmental justice), and health and safety. Other actions or potential actions that may be concurrent with the proposed action could contribute to cumulative impacts. The environmental impacts of these other actions are addressed in this EA only in the "impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of which agency (federal or non-federal) or person is undertaking such actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time."

1.4 Public Involvement

On 3 March 2011, the Draft Environmental Assessment was sent to 10 governmental agencies with an accompanying memorandum requesting their review and comments (The memorandum, distribution list, and complete agency responses are provided in Appendix A). Responses were received from four agencies. Their responses are summarized below:

Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas stated that they had no comments to offer.

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality noted that the proposed action location is currently unclassified or in attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for all six criteria air pollutants. They also stated they are in support of the project and the EA addressed issues related to surface and groundwater quality.

Texas Historical Commission noted that they reviewed the consultation from the base and agrees with our determination of NO HISTORIC PROPERTIES AFFECTED for the proposed construction of the one-quarter mile track with stretching pad and PAR Course/Nature Trail at Sheppard AFB.

Texas Parks and Wildlife noted that based on the project description, the Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program does not anticipate significant adverse impacts to rare, threatened or endangered species, or other fish and wildlife resources.

The Draft EA and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) were made available at the Wichita Falls Public Library to provide public access to the document during the 30-day public comment period. Notification of this 30-day comment period detailing the availability of the document for public review was placed in the Wichita Falls Times Record News.

2.0 Alternatives to the Proposed Action including No Action

2.1 Alternatives to the Proposed Action

1. Constructing either a smaller (or larger) Track and PAR Course/Nature Trail at SAFB; or,
2. Constructing a Track and PAR Course/Nature Trail at a location elsewhere.

These alternatives are potentially practicable, but do not reasonably fulfill the purpose and need for the Proposed Action for reasons which include the following:

- a. Constructing a smaller Track and PAR Course/Nature Trail at SAFB would substantially lessen the effectiveness and efficiency of the fitness capabilities, yet not reduce or eliminate any known environmental impacts nor provide any benefits or better meet the need of this action. Constructing a smaller Track and PAR Course/Nature Trail would not meet the objectives of AFI 36-2905, which recommends a multi-station training course and a measured 1.0-mile, uninterrupted course (preferable a ¼ mile track).
- b. Constructing a larger Track and PAR Course/Nature Trail at SAFB would, at this time, be unnecessary to accomplish the mission, would be more difficult to find a suitable location, and would significantly add to the cost of the proposed project. Constructing a larger Track and PAR Course/Nature Trail would not meet the objectives of AFI 36-2905, which recommends a multi-station training course and a measured 1.0-mile, uninterrupted course (preferable a ¼ mile track).
- c. Constructing a Track and PAR Course/Nature Trail at another location is potentially feasible, but considerably less reasonable because other locations do not provide all mission needs necessary for SAFB. The available undeveloped land location is the most reasonable due to its central location and close proximity to fitness facilities which allow for ease of testing, meeting the requirements of the Fitness Assessment.

2.2 No Action

If the One-quarter Mile Track with Stretching Pad and a PAR Course/Nature Trail is not constructed at SAFB, either the benefits of the proposed action would be entirely unavailable or severely compromised by operational limitations from an unfeasible location or different sized unit. The undesirable consequences would eliminate or compromise the mission and preclude effective benefits from the purpose and need for the proposed action.

The No Action alternative is; however, examined for environmental impacts as fully as the Proposed Action in accordance with Air Force NEPA guidance (32 CFR 989).

2.3 The Proposed Action

SAFB proposes to construct a One-quarter Mile Track with Stretching Pad and a PAR Course/Nature Trail. Implementation of the Proposed Action would require:

1. Construction of a ¼ quarter mile track and parking area consisting of a 6 lane walking track in the area between Ave E and Ave F North of 8th Ave,
2. The track will consist of asphalt and concrete with a rubber surfacing made of polyurethane and recycled tires,
3. Addition of stretching pads comprised of 2 concrete, rubberized workout pads located around the walking track,
4. Install utility and electrical lines to provide dusk-to-dawn timed lighting, restroom facilities, Automatic External Defibrillator (AED), and an emergency phone for security and safety of the facility users,
5. Construction of a PAR Course/Nature Trail with exercise stations, park benches and a parking area with timed dusk-to-dawn lighting for security,
6. Current landscaping will be used to the maximum extent practical; however, additional landscaping shall include trees, rocks, and a variety of ground cover that meets the requirements in accordance with Department of Defense and Air Force Landscape Design criteria.

3.0 The Affected Environment

The affected environment is the baseline against which potential impacts caused by the Proposed Action and alternative actions (including the No Action alternative) are assessed. This section focuses on the human environment that has the potential to be affected by the construction of a one-quarter mile track and PAR Course/Nature Trail. As stated in 40 CFR 1508.14, the potential affected human environment is interpreted comprehensively to include the natural and physical environment and the relationship of people with the environment. Relevant natural and physical resources were selected for description in this section. Information is presented in this section to the level of detail necessary to support the analysis of potential impacts in Section 4, Environmental Consequences.

SAFB is located in north-central Texas approximately six miles south of the Texas/Oklahoma border. Situated at 1,015 feet amsl, it encompasses approximately 5,297 acres. The following subsections describe the existing conditions of the Resource areas that would potentially be affected by the Proposed Action.

3.1 Cultural Resources

Cultural resource management at Air Force installations is established in AFI 32-7065, Cultural Resources Management. AFI 32-7065 details compliance requirements for protecting cultural resources through an Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP). Sheppard AFB completed an ICRMP in 2010. The ICRMP includes an inventory and evaluation of all known cultural resources; identification of the likely presence of other significant cultural resources; description of installation strategies for maintaining cultural resources and complying with related resource statutes, regulations, policies, and procedures; standard operating procedures and action plans that include budget, staffing and scheduling activities; clear identification and resolution of the mission impact on cultural resources; and conformance with local, state, and federal preservation programs.

3.2 Historical Properties

Surveys evaluating historic buildings, structures and landscapes at Sheppard AFB were conducted in 1993 and 2002, and the Base recently completed an Integrated Cultural Resource Plan (ICRMP) (Sheppard AFB 2010). During the archaeological assessment of the Base in 1993, the Base's Real Property Inventory listing was reviewed for the period from 1928 to 1950 to identify any buildings or structures that might meet the eligibility requirements for listing on the NRHP. During this survey, the Kell Field Air Terminal Building was the only building determined eligible for both the NRHP and State register. The Kell Field Air Terminal was formerly listed as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark by the Texas Historical Commission in 1981.

A Cold War inventory was conducted in 2002. Of the 256 buildings and structures at Sheppard that were constructed on the Base during the Cold War period, only two (Buildings 2560 and 2130) were recommended eligible for NRHP listing as Cold War resources. Building 2130, also known as the Little Adobe, was built circa 1928, was dedicated as a recorded Texas Historical Landmark in November 1981, and is currently used as a historical museum (Heritage Center). Building 2560 and the Alert Apron were used during the Cold War as the Strategic Air Command (SAC) facilities.

No cultural resources are located adjacent to or in the vicinity of the Proposed Action. Building 2560 and the Alert Apron are located approximately two miles north northeast of the proposed One-quarter Mile Track with Stretching Pad and PAR Course/Nature Trail locations.

3.3 Archeological Resources

The 1993 cultural resources assessment included an archeological reconnaissance survey of the base. The survey covered the northwestern part of the base and open areas, including the parasail training area, the physical training area, civil engineering training area, and the pastures associated with the saddle club. Observations of existing developed areas and ongoing construction-related activities indicated that there was an extremely low probability of any intact cultural deposits within the Base. No archaeological resources were identified and it was recommended no further archaeological investigations be required.

In 1994, a second archaeological survey was also conducted and focused on the Sheppard AFB Recreational Area (Sheppard AFBRA). An initial literature and archival search was conducted to establish the presence of any previously recorded sites on the Sheppard AFBRA property. Information was found on two previously recorded sites (4IGSIIS and 41GS26). Both are currently completely submerged in Lake Texoma; consequently, they were not investigated. No archaeological resource sites were located during the 1994 survey and no sites eligible for nomination to the NRHP were found. SHPO concurred with these findings. If there are any inadvertent discoveries, the SHPO will be notified and impacts to any historic resources will be evaluated to determine if they are eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

3.4 Natural Resources

3.4.1. Biological Resources

3.4.2 Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The project area was investigated for any structures containing migratory birds or indications of nesting migratory birds. Migratory birds were not observed in the project area. Migratory birds may arrive in the project area to breed during construction of the proposed project. Measures would be taken to avoid the taking of migratory birds, their occupied nests, eggs, or young, in accordance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, through phasing of work or preventative measures.

3.4.3 Executive Order 13112 on Invasive Species & Beneficial Landscaping

Re-vegetation of disturbed areas would be in compliance with the Executive Memorandum on Beneficial Landscaping (26Apr94) and the Executive Order on Invasive Species (EO 13112). Regionally native and non-invasive plants will be used to the extent practicable in landscaping and re-vegetation. On this project, re-vegetation will consist of approved mixtures of grass species. Periodically, herbicide would be applied as necessary to control undesirable plant species.

3.4.4 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Essential Fish Habitat)

No tidally influenced waters are included in the proposed project, nor does the project area contain essential fish habitats.

3.4.5 Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act

All impacts to waters of the state would be authorized under Section 404 Nationwide Permit. Consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) is not required.

3.4.6 Vegetation

The proposed project is located in the Cross Timbers Ecological Area of Texas. Much of the land at SAFB is characterized as semi-improved or improved. These areas have been planted with vegetation specified on approved planting lists that are maintained for grasses, trees, evergreen shrubs, groundcovers, and vines. The proposed project area is composed of grasses that are periodically mowed including Bermuda (*Cynodon dactylon*), buffalo grass (*Buchloe dactyloides*), Texas wintergrass (*Stipa leucotricha*), Johnson grass (*Sorghum halepense*), and purple three-awn (*Aristida purpurea*). Impacts to vegetation communities would be due to dirt work and the construction of the One-quarter Mile Track with Stretching Pad, and Par Course/Nature Trail. Potential impacts to these communities are shown in the following table. The table includes the area of the community that could be impacted by the subject project, range of DBH and height, and percent canopy cover. All measurements are approximate.

3.4.7 Protected Species

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) provides a program for the conservation of threatened and endangered plants and animals and the habitats in which they are found. Passed in 1973, and reauthorized in 1988, the ESA regulates a wide range of activities affecting plants and animals designated as endangered or threatened. By definition, **endangered species** is an animal or plant listed by regulation as being in danger of extinction. A **threatened species** is any animal or plant that is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future. A species must be listed in the Federal Register as endangered or threatened for the provisions of the act to apply.

The Texas legislature authorized the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to establish a list of endangered species in the state. **Endangered species** are those species which the Executive Director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has named as being "threatened with statewide extinction". **Threatened species** are those species which the TPWD Commission has determined are likely to become endangered in the future.

There are fifteen protected species that potentially could be located in Wichita County, Texas. The following table lists these 15 species, their protected status, and whether habitat is located within the proposed project area.

Table 1. Wichita County Threatened and Endangered Species.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Presence of Suitable Habitat	Federal Status	State Status
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	No	DL	T
Interior Least Tern	<i>Sterna antillarum athalassos</i>	No	LE	E
Peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i> (American)	No	DL	E
	<i>Falco peregrinus tundrius</i> (Arctic)	No	DL	T
Whooping crane	<i>Grus Americana</i>	No	LE	E
Gray wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>	No	LE	E
Red wolf	<i>Canis rufus</i>	No	LE	E
Texas horned lizard	<i>Phrynosoma cornutum</i>	No	-	T
Texas kangaroo rat	<i>Dipodomys elator</i>	No	-	T
Baird's sparrow	<i>Ammodramus bairdii</i>	No	-	SOC
Mountain plover	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	No	-	SOC
Western burrowing owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	No	-	SOC

Common Name	Scientific Name	Presence of Suitable Habitat	Federal Status	State Status
Black-tailed prairie dog	<i>Cynomys ludovicianus</i>	No	-	SOC
Cave myotis bat	<i>Myotis velifer</i>	No	-	SOC
Plains spotted skunk	<i>Spilogale putorius interrupta</i>	No	-	SOC

Federal: (E): Endangered, (T): Threatened, (PT): Proposed threatened, (C): Candidate, (DL): Delisted, (LE): Listed
Endangered

State: (T): Threatened, (E): Endangered, (SOC): Species of Concern

**Listed species whose migratory routes cross Wichita County; ^Winter residents of Wichita County

3.4.8 Wildlife Impacts

A survey of the proposed project was performed on 21 February 2011, by 82 CES/DS2/CEV staff. Presence of listed species was not observed during the site inspection of the project area. The Texas horned lizard has been observed on the Base, primarily in the area of the old landfill, but it has also been observed at the former Saddle Club area, and the northern ends of the airfields. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Natural Diversity Database (TPWD NDD) comments provided in conjunction with the SAFB Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan dated August 2010, revealed occurrences of the Texas kangaroo rat (EOID 3126, EOID 8871) within 2 miles of the proposed project area. A site visit determined that the project area lacked suitable habitat to support the Texas horned lizard or the Texas kangaroo rat. No mesquite communities with dense clay soils were located within the project vicinity. The TPWD NDD data is used for potential presence data and cannot be interpreted as presence/absence data.

Representative mammal species occurring in the area include common small mammals include Eastern cottontail (*Sylvilagus floridanus*), black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*), and Mexican ground squirrel (*Spermophilus mexicanus*). Representative avian species occurring in the geographical region include red-tailed hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*), northern bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*) and mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*).

3.4.9 Wild and Scenic Rivers

There are no designated Wild & Scenic Rivers within the project area.

3.4.10 Visual

Aesthetic values would be emphasized on this project. It has always been the policy of SAFB to maintain visually pleasing facilities, coupling beauty with their functional capability. The aesthetic effect of this project would be equal to or better than the existing land use.

3.5 Water Resources

The proposed project is located in the Red River Basin. Storm water runoff in the project area flows into the SAFB Storm Sewer System which flows into Bear Creek which flows into the Wichita River at segment 0214.

3.5.1 Section 404 of the Clean Water Act: Waters of the United States

This project would not result in the placement of temporary or permanent dredge or fill material into potentially jurisdictional Waters of the U.S., including wetlands or other special aquatic sites; therefore, a Section 404 permit would not be required for this project.

3.5.2 Section 401 of the Clean Water Act: Water Quality Certification

This project would not require a United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) Section 404 Permit; therefore, Section 401 Certification would not be required for this project.

3.5.3 Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, Section 10

There are no stream crossings along the project area that are considered navigable. No U.S. Coast Guard permits would be necessary for this project. This project does not involve work in or over navigable water of the U.S.; therefore, Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act does not apply.

3.5.4 Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act

Runoff from this project would not discharge directly into Section 303(d) listed threatened or impaired water, or into a stream within 5 miles upstream of a Section 303(d) listed threatened or impaired water. The 2010 Clean Water Act 303(d) list was utilized in this assessment.

3.5.5 Section 402 of the Clean Water Act: TPDES, Construction General Permit

The One-quarter Mile Track project would not disturb more than 5 acres. The PAR Course/Nature Trail project would disturb more than 5 acres. SAFB would comply with TCEQ's Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Construction General Permit (CGP). A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWP3) would be implemented and a construction site notice would be posted on the construction site for both projects. A Notice of Intent (NOI) would be required for the PAR Course/Nature Trail project.

3.5.6 Section 402 of the Clean Water Act: TPDES, MS4

This project is located within the boundaries of the Phase II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4), and would comply with the applicable MS4 requirements.

3.5.7 Floodplains

The project is not located within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designated 100-year floodplain. The facility would permit the conveyance of the 100-year flood without causing significant damage to the facility, stream, or other property. The proposed project would not increase base flood elevation to a level that would violate applicable floodplain regulations and ordinances. Coordination with the local Floodplain Administrator would not be required.

3.6. Air Quality

3.6.1 National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)

The ambient air quality in an area can be characterized in terms of whether or not it complies with the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) (40 CFR 50 and CAA §108). Texas has adopted the NAAQS as its state ambient air quality standards under TAC §30.1.101.21. The USEPA is tasked with constantly reviewing the NAAQS and recommending changes based on improved scientific knowledge and understanding of how these pollutants impact health and the environment. The project is located in Wichita County, Texas, which is an area of attainment of all NAAQS; therefore, a conformity determination under the Clean Air Act conformity rules is not required.

3.6.2 Carbon Monoxide (CO) Analysis

The proposed action would not add capacity to an existing facility. Current and future emissions should continue to follow existing trends not being affected by this project. Due to the nature of this project, further carbon monoxide analysis was not deemed necessary.

3.6.3 Construction Impacts

During the construction phase of this project there can be temporary increases in air pollutant emissions from construction activities, equipment, and related vehicles. The primary construction related emissions are particulate matter (fugitive dust) from site preparation and construction and non-road mobile source air toxics (MSATs) from construction equipment and vehicles. The primary MSAT emission related to construction is diesel particulate matter from diesel powered construction equipment and vehicles. These emissions are temporary in nature (only occurring during actual construction and it is not reasonably possible to estimate impacts from these emissions due to limitations of the existing models. However, the potential impacts of particulate matter emissions will be minimized by using fugitive dust control measures such as covering or treating disturbed areas with dust suppression techniques, sprinkling, covering loaded trucks, and other dust abatement controls, as appropriate. The MSAT emissions will be minimized by measures to encourage use of USEPA required cleaner diesel fuels, limits on idling, increasing use of cleaner burning diesel engines, and other emission limitation techniques, as appropriate. However, considering the temporary and transient nature of construction related emissions as well as the mitigation actions to be utilized, it is not anticipated that emissions from construction of this project will have any significant impact on air quality in the area.

3.7 Environmental Justice

Executive Order (EO) 12898 "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Population" requires each federal agency to make "achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies and activities on minority populations and low-income populations. The Proposed Action would not directly or indirectly impact minority populations; therefore, no further environmental justice analysis is warranted.

3.8 Socioeconomic Resources

The following table lists the 2010 Census data for the proposed project area.

Table 2. Census Bureau Data.

2010 Census Data	% White	% Hispanic	% Black	% Other ¹	Median Income
United States	69.1	12.5	12.1	6.3	\$41,994
Texas	52.4	32.0	11.4	4.2	\$39,927
Wichita County	73.3	12.2	10.1	4.4	\$33,780
Census Tract 134	63.8	10.8	17.3	8.1	\$30,884
Block Group 1	63.8	10.8	17.3	8.1	
Block 1000	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Block 1002	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Block 1003	63.2	10.8	18.4	7.6	
Block 1004	63.9	11.1	16.6	8.4	
Block 1005	64.1	10.3	17.6	8.0	
Block 1006	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Block 1007	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	

1. "Other" includes the following groups: American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, and two or more races. (Census Bureau 2000: http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?_lang=en)

Document describes neighborhood population characteristics that encompass Sheppard AFB. Utilized census data is presented at the lowest level available which, for race and ethnicity, is the "block" level. The block level is the smallest geographic unit for which the Census Bureau tabulates 100-percent data. Income and language characteristics are presented at the "block group" level. A block group is the smallest geographic unit for which the Census Bureau tabulates sample data. "Census tract" is a small, relatively permanent statistical subdivision of a county delineated by a local committee of census data users for the purpose of presenting data. Census data is presented for each block/block group/census tract and is not aggregated across the project area. Demographic data, as described in Table 2, indicates that minority and low-income groups do not represent a disproportionate number of the population for Sheppard AFB.

3.9 Community Impacts

Community cohesion is a term that refers to an aggregate quality of a residential area. Cohesion is a social attribute that indicates a sense of community, common responsibility, and social interaction within limited geographic areas. The project is located on a federal installation. There are no residences adjacent to the project. The proposed project would require no relocations. No adverse impacts to any neighborhoods, communities, or other social units are anticipated as a result of the proposed projects.

The proposed project would be constructed in an area that is already partially developed. Given the nature of the project vicinity, this project would not divide, separate, or isolate any neighborhood or community, nor would it increase through traffic in the residential areas. No negative impact on community cohesion is expected.

3.10 Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

EO 13166, "Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency", requires agencies to examine the services they provide, identify any need for services of limited English proficiency (LEP), and develop and implement a system to provide these services so that LEP persons can have meaningful access to them. There are no indications of LEP Populations in the project area.

None of the limited English Proficient populations would be discriminated against as a result of the proposed project. Public involvement for this project would comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and EO 13116. Any public involvement/outreach would be conducted in a manner so that all interested parties can provide both oral and written comments concerning the proposed project. Reasonable arrangements (such as special communication interpreters or accommodation needs) would be taken to ensure all persons have meaningful access to the programs, services, and information SAFB provides. Therefore, the requirements of EO 13166 appear to be satisfied.

3.11 Noise

Since there would be no change in operations, generated noise impacts would not change. Temporary noise impacts related to construction and demolition activities are as described in the May 2007, Installation Development Environmental Assessment.

3.12 Hazardous Materials

Based on the proposed activity to construct a One-quarter Mile Track with Stretching Pad and PAR Course/Nature Trail an Initial Site Assessment (ISA) was conducted to identify potential hazardous materials in the project area. The ISA consisted of the following actions: design review, map review, regulatory database review, and a project site visit. An analysis of ISA data indicates that this project will not involve the acquisition of known unresolved contamination where SAFB could reasonably expect to assume liability upon acquisition. In addition, this project does not involve known hazardous materials impacts that could be anticipated to adversely effect construction (e.g. cannot resolve before bidding or during construction).

The area surrounding the proposed One-quarter Mile Track with Stretching Pad is composed of undeveloped land. The area surrounding the proposed PAR Course/Nature Trail is composed of undeveloped land and warehouses. Surveys of the proposed project areas were performed on 21 February 2011. No evidence of contamination or hazardous materials was observed within the proposed project vicinity. A check of the USEPA EnviroMapper website revealed no toxic release sites, no hazardous waste sites, and no Superfund sites in or adjacent to the proposed project area. A review of the TCEQ petroleum storage tanks (PSTs) registration database revealed no PST facilities located in or adjacent to the One-quarter Mile Track with Stretching Pad or the PAR Course/Nature Trail project. The site survey

and research into the historical land use did not reveal any abandoned and/or active gas stations. No significant excavation is anticipated.

Should hazardous materials be discovered as the result of the implementation of this project, they would be removed. The removal and disposal process would comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws.

The contractor will take appropriate measures to prevent, minimize and control the spill of hazardous materials in the construction staging area. All spills, including those of less than 25 gallons would be cleaned immediately and any contaminated soil would be immediately removed from the site and disposed of properly.

3.13 Geology and Soils

3.13.1 Geology

Sheppard AFB is located in the Central Rolling Red Plains of the Redbeds Plains unit of the Central Lowland physiographic province. Soils formed on an erosional surface characterized by rolling plains having ancient stream terraces associated with stream dissection. Soils (mostly red) formed in gently dipping Triassic and Permian sedimentary deposits and alluvium weathered from outcropping bedrock.

3.13.2 Soils

Sheppard AFB is located on a broad east-west soil belt known as the Kamay-Bluegrove-Deandale Association. This association consists of loamy soils that formed in red-bed clay, shale or sandstone, or in old alluvium derived from red-bed clay and shale. Common soil series include Kamay, Bluegrove, and Deandale.

Soils at Sheppard AFB are generally characterized as reddish-brown sandy loam, highly susceptible to wind and water erosion, underlain with red clay-to-clay loam. In certain areas, red-bed shale and sandstone are near the surface. Adequate landscaping is required to maintain soil stability at the Base; current landscaping policy requires low-maintenance native plant species.

3.14 Health and Safety

3.14.1 No Action Alternative

Implementation of the No Action alternative would result in no changes to the existing conditions at Sheppard AFB. No construction or renovation activities would take place. No impacts to health and safety would occur under implementation of the No Action alternative.

3.14.2 Proposed Action Alternative

Implementation of the Proposed Action would not have a significant impact on the health and safety of construction workers, students, civilians, or contractors. Adherence to the protocols detailed below would greatly minimize any potential for worker injury.

The well-being, safety, or health of workers – Workers are considered persons directly involved with the operation producing the effect or who are physically present at the operational site.

No impacts to health and safety would be anticipated, as all appropriate Occupation Safety and Health Administration regulations including 29 CFR Part 1926, *Safety and Health Regulations for Construction*, and Site Specific Health and Safety Plans would be followed during project construction and renovation activities.

4.0 Conclusion

The impact to the environment from the proposed construction of a One-quarter Mile Track with Stretching Pad and a PAR Course/Nature Trail at SAFB has been assessed. Two different alternatives (the Proposed Action alternative and the No Action alternative) were examined. No cumulative impacts to the environment were identified for the Proposed Action alternatives in the area under consideration in this document. No significant environmental issues were determined through this Environmental Assessment that indicates a requirement to publish an Environmental Impact Statement as required by 32 CFR 989, and the National Environmental Policy Act.

5.0 References

USAF, 1998. United States Air Force, Environmental Assessment for Installation Development, Sheppard AFB, September 1998.

6.0 List of Preparers

Manry, Stephanie (82 CES/DS2/CEV)

7.0 Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning

7.1 Agencies/Organizations Sent Copies of the Assessment

As part of the CEQ Regulations on the National Environmental Policy Act, SAFB will circulate the Draft EA, to the following agencies, organizations, and individuals. Copies of all correspondence will be included in Appendix A.

Denise S. Francis
Single Point of Contact
Governor's Office
P.O. Box 12428 Austin, Texas 78711

Tangela Niemann
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Building F
12100 Park 35 Circle
Austin TX, 78753

Harold Stone
Intergovernmental Affairs
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
4200 Smith School Road Austin, TX 78744

Luela Roberts
Branch Chief for Consultations
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services Field Office
10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200
Austin, TX 78758

Isabel Balderas-Sloan
Director Texas Historical Commission
1511 N. Colorado St.
Austin, TX 78701

Dennis Wilde
Nortex Regional Planning Commission
4309 Jacksboro Hwy,
Suite 200
Wichita Falls, TX 76302

Mr. Alonzo Chalepah
Chairman
Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1220
Anadarko, OK 73005

Mr. Juan Garza, Jr.
Chairperson
Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas
HC1 Route, Box 9700
Eagle Pass, TX 78852

Mr. Gary McAdams
President
Wichita and Affiliated Tribes
P.O. Box 729
Anadarko, OK 73005

Russell Schreiber
Director of Public Works
1300 7th St.
Room 402
Wichita Falls, Texas 76301

APPENDIX A

Interagency/Intergovernmental Coordination

**TRADITIONAL
COUNCIL**

CHAIRMAN
Juan Garza, Jr., Kisisika

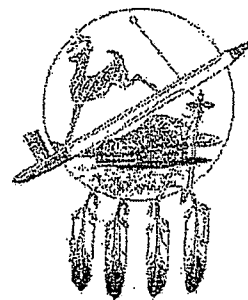
SECRETARY
Jesus Anico, Chakodata

TREASURER
Rogelio Elizondo, Apichicua

MEMBERS
David J. Gonzalez, Kikekideah
Nanate Hernandez, Nanatea

KICKAPOO
**TRADITIONAL
TRIBE OF TEXAS**

HCR 1 Box 9700
Eagle Pass, Texas 78852



Traditional Council

April 1, 2011

Stephanie D. Manry
Environmental Supervisor
82CES/DS2/CEV
231 (th Avenue, Bldg 1402
Sheppard AFB, TX 76311-3333

Re: Draft Environmental Assessment for the proposed construction of a One-quarter Mile Track with Stretching Pad and a PAR Course/Nature Trail at Sheppard Air Force Base (AFB).

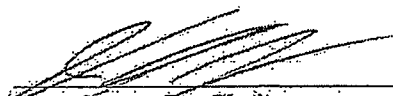
Dear Madam:

Thank you for your letter dated on March 2, 2011, regarding the Draft Environmental Assessment for the proposed construction of a One-quarter Mile Track with Stretching Pad and a PAR Course/Nature Trail at Sheppard Air Force Base (AFB).

Thank you for advising us about the proposed action. The Kickapoo Nation values its traditions and customs so we appreciate your taking the time to ask for our input in this matter. By keeping the lines of communication open we can peacefully co-exist yet attend to our respective businesses.

We do not have any questions or concerns regarding the information within your transmittal, as we are unaware of any tribal sites in this area, therefore it does not affect our interests in any way. Furthermore, the Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas wishes you success in your endeavor.

Should you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us.



Juan Garza, Jr., Chairman

Bryan W. Shaw, Ph.D., *Chairman*
Buddy Garcia, *Commissioner*
Carlos Rubinstein, *Commissioner*
Mark R. Vickery, P.G., *Executive Director*



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

March 9, 2011

Ms. Stephanie Manry
Environmental Supervisor
Defense Support Services LLC
231 9th Avenue, Bldg 1402
Sheppard AFB, TX 76311-333

Re: TCEQ Grant and Texas Review and Comment System (TRACS) #2011-110 - Re: Proposed construction of a One-quarter Mile Track with Stretching Pad and a PAR Course/Nature Trail at Sheppard Air Force Base

Dear Ms. Manry:

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has reviewed the above-referenced project and offers following comments:

A review of the project for General Conformity impact in accordance with 40 CFR Part 93 and Title 30, Texas Administrative Code § 101.30 indicates that the proposed action is currently unclassified or in attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for all six criteria air pollutants. Therefore, General Conformity does not apply.

Although any demolition, construction, rehabilitation or repair project will produce dust and particulate emissions, these actions should pose no significant impact upon air quality standards. Any minimal dust and particulate emissions should be easily controlled by the construction contractors using standard dust mitigation techniques.

We are in support of the project. The environmental assessment addresses issues related to surface and groundwater quality.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Tangela Niemann at (512) 239-3786 or tangela.niemann@tceq.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jim Harrison".

Jim Harrison, Director
Intergovernmental Relations Division

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories

March 30, 2011

Stephanie D. Manry
Environmental Supervisor
82CES/DS2/CEV
231 9th Avenue, Bldg. 1402
Sheppard AFB, TX 76311-3333

Re: Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of a one-quarter mile track with stretching pad and a PAR Course/Nature Trail at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas.

Dear Ms. Manry:

Thank you for your correspondence describing the above referenced project. This letter serves as comment on the proposed undertaking from the State Historic Preservation Officer, the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission (THC).

Our review staff, led by Mr. William McWhorter, has reviewed the above mentioned consultation from your office and agrees with your determination of **NO HISTORIC PROPERTIES AFFECTED**, for this proposed construction of the one-quarter mile track with stretching pad and a PAR Course/Nature Trail at Sheppard Air Force Base. Should this proposed project's area of potential effect change to encompass eligible structures of archeological sites, or potentially eligible structures or archeological sites for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, we look forward to consulting with you further on your eligibility determinations. Please note, in 2007, the THC concurred with the U.S. Air Force's (and the DOD) finding of eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, for the following structures at Sheppard AFB:

- The B-52 alert pads (apron)
- Building 2560
- Building 2130 (also known as "Little Adobe")

Thank you once again for your cooperation in this state and federal review process, and for your efforts to preserve the irreplaceable heritage of Texas. If you have any questions concerning our review or if we may be of further assistance, please contact Mr. William McWhorter at 512/463-5833.

Sincerely,

William McWhorter

for
Mark Wolfe,
Executive Director



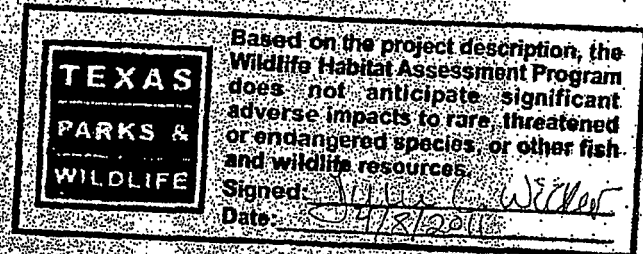


DEFENSE SUPPORT SERVICES LLC
A Lockheed Martin / Raytheon Systems Company

March 2, 2011

82CES/DS2/CEV
231 9th Avenue, Bldg 1402
Sheppard AFB, TX 76311-3333

Harold Stone
Intergovernmental Affairs
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
4200 Smith School Road Austin, TX 78744



Dear Sir/Madam,

The Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) is for the proposed construction of a One-quarter Mile Track with Stretching Pad and a PAR Course/Nature Trail at Sheppard Air Force Base (AFB) is enclosed for your review and comment. This document addresses the manner in which the base proposes to develop the base.

A copy of the Draft EA that analyzes the proposal and alternatives is enclosed for your review and comment. A listing of the other agencies contacted is also included. The comment period for this EA is 30 calendar days from the date of this letter. If we do not receive a response by 1 April 2011, we will proceed with signature of the Finding of No Significant Impact/Finding of No Practical Alternative associated with this EA. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at (940) 676-5721.

Sincerely,

Stephanie D. Manry
Environmental Supervisor

Attachments:

1. EA for the proposed construction of a One-quarter Mile Track with Stretching Pad and a PAR Course/Nature Trail at Sheppard AFB
2. List of agencies contacted

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A ONE-QUARTER
MILE TRACK AND PAR COURSE AT
SHEPPARD AIR FORCE BASE, TEXAS

Interested parties are hereby notified that the United States Air Force, Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas has completed a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) that resulted in a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the construction of a One-quarter Mile Track with Stretching Pad and Par Course. The EA identifies potential impacts to the environment of a proposed action for this project.

The EA will be located at:

Wichita Falls Public Library
600 Eleventh Street
Wichita Falls, Texas 76301

The EA, which addressed the proposed action and alternative, has been prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The Air Force invites government agency representatives and citizens to provide input on the findings of the EA.

Public Comments on the Draft EA will be accepted through May 10, 2011. Written comments and inquiries should be directed to:

Mr. George Woodward,
Director – Public Affairs,
419 G Avenue, Suite G,
Sheppard AFB, TX 76311-2943.
Fax: 940-676-4245.

Email: 82trwpa@sheppard.af.mil

APPENDIX B

Project Location Maps

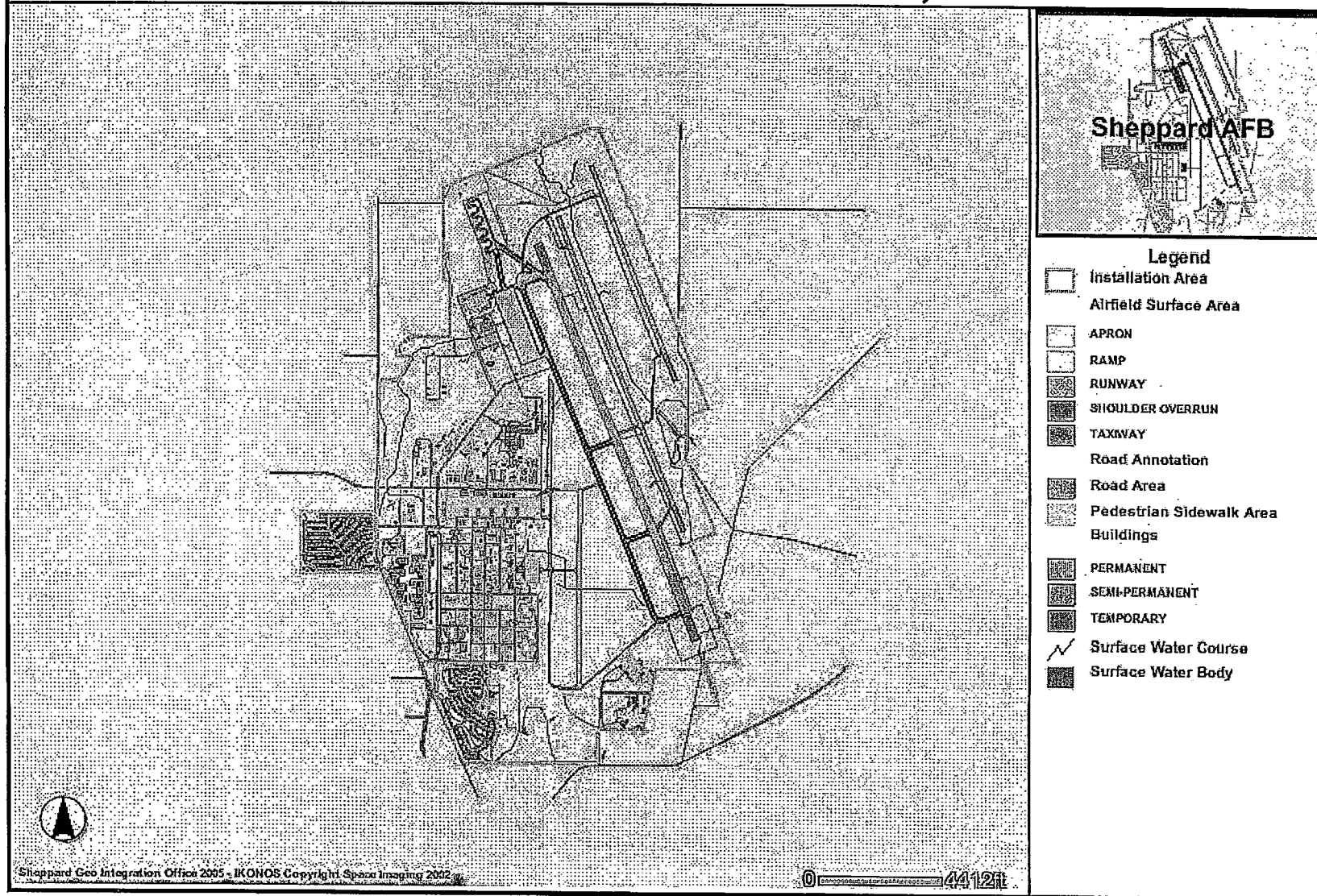
Google maps

Address Sheppard AFB (SPS)
Wichita Falls, TX 76306

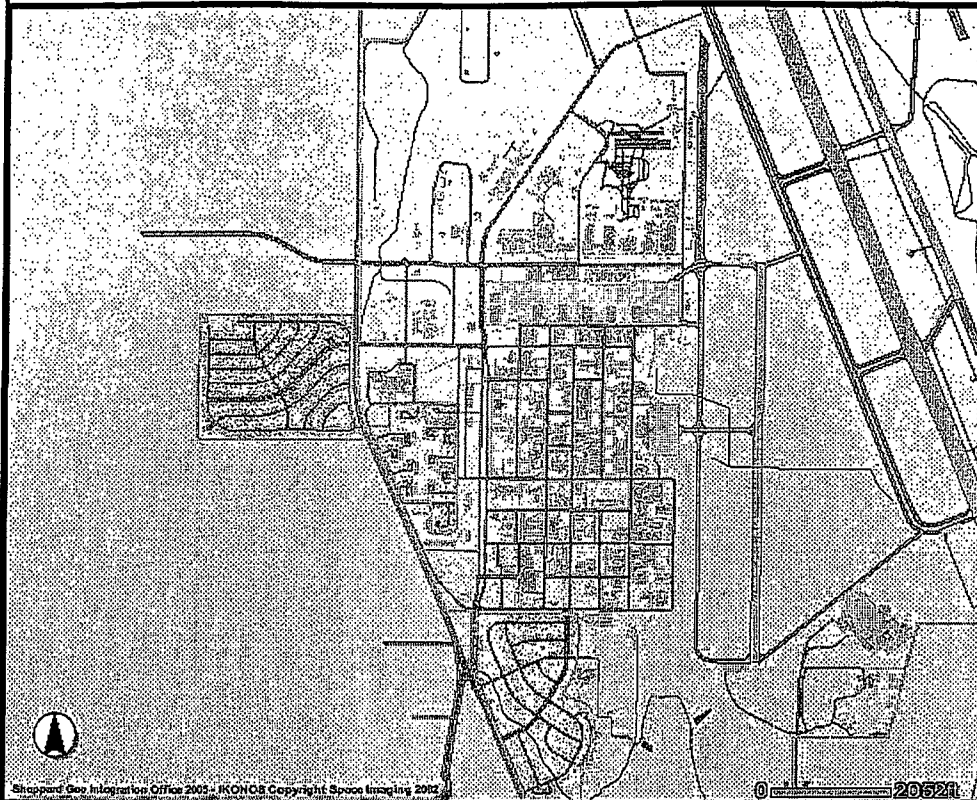
Notes ONE-QUARTER MILE TRACK
AND PAR COURSE
SHEPPARD AFB, TEXAS



SHEPPARD AIR FORCE BASE, TEXAS



PAR COURSE/NATURE TRAIL



Legend

- Highlighted Feature
- Selected Features
- Installation Area
- Airfield Surface Area
- APRON
- RAMP
- RUNWAY
- SHOULDER/OVERRUN
- TAXIWAY
- Road Annotation
- Road Area
- Pedestrian Sidewalk Area
- Buildings
- PERMANENT
- SEMI-PERMANENT
- TEMPORARY
- Surface Water Course
- Surface Water Body

